

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A flat filter for venting gas in intravenous medical lines, comprising a case having an inlet and an outlet and formed by a frontal plate and by a dorsal plate peripherally superposed on each other and mutually coupled in hermetic fashion, a hydrophilic filtering membrane interposed between said plates and, in use, traversed by the intravenous fluid entering the case through said inlet and exiting from said case through said outlet, and vent opening means with associated hydrophobic membrane means for the escape of gas from the case, said vent opening means being constituted by a single through hole of said dorsal plate communicating with an elongated collecting channel formed on the inner wall of said dorsal plate, along and on said collecting channel a hydrophobic membrane being applied having an elongated configuration complementary to that of said collecting channel,

wherein said collecting channel extends longitudinally substantially along the centerline of said dorsal plate, and

wherein said single vent hole is positioned in a substantially median position of said collecting channel.

2. (Original) Flat filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said collecting channel has a linear configuration.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) Flat filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inlet and said outlet are positioned at an end of said frontal plate.